

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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Major Impacts of the New Voter Photo ID Bill Changes to the Election Process Effective Immediately Information for County and Municipal Clerks

Special Procedures for all Elections before the 2012 February Primary

- Electors voting at the polling place must be asked to show a photo ID, but are ***not required*** to provide one in order to vote prior to the 2012 February Primary.
- Electors must be given an informational document about photo ID if they are unable to show an ID at elections held before the 2012 February Primary.
 - The G.A.B. strongly encourages clerks to provide this document to all electors before the 2012 February Primary, but it is not a requirement of the law.
 - The G.A.B. will create and post this and other informational documents at <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id>
 - Clerks must print enough copies to give to electors at the polls.
 - Election Inspectors must not allow the supply of the “Wisconsin’s New Photo ID Law” document to run out.

General Changes

- Electors must sign a poll list before being issued a ballot. The G.A.B. has determined that a voter will be required to sign only one poll list. The signed poll list will be retained by the County Clerk.
 - Electors who have a disability that prevents them from physically being able to sign the poll list are exempt from this provision. If another person signed the voter’s registration form because the voter was unable to sign due to disability, the election inspector writes the word “exempt” on the signature line. If the voter is already registered but the voter claims to be unable to sign due to physical disability, and both inspectors concur, the inspectors shall enter the words “exempt by order of inspectors” on the signature line. If both inspectors do not waive the signature requirement, the voter shall be allowed to cast a ballot and the inspector or inspectors who did not waive the requirement shall challenge the ballot.

- There will be changes to several forms including, but not limited to, the GAB-131 (Voter Registration Application), the GAB-121 (the Absentee Application), the GAB-107 (Supplemental Poll List) and the GAB-122 (the Absentee Certificate Envelope). The new forms will be posted on the GAB website as they are updated.
- Voters that cast a provisional ballot on Election Day have until 4 p.m. the Friday after the election to provide the required documentation. Prior to the legislative change, voters had until 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Voter Registration Changes

- The residency requirement has changed from 10 days to 28 consecutive days.
- An elector can no longer use a corroborating witness.
- Voters are required to provide their most recent address where they were previously registered to vote.
- Along with using other documents that all voters may use to provide proof of residency, university and college students may also establish residency for registration by using the combination of a college ID with a photo and a fee payment receipt that contains the student's residential address dated no earlier than nine months before the election. University and college students may also establish residency using a student ID with a photo if the university or college has provided a certified list to the municipal clerk of students, containing the students' residential addresses and indicating which students are U.S. citizens.
- A Special Registration Deputy (SRD) can only be appointed by a municipal clerk, and will no longer be appointed as a statewide SRD by the G.A.B. A SRD appointed by a municipal clerk can only register electors within that municipality during open registration. There is no effect on appointing Election Day SRD's.
 - Registration ends at 5 p.m. or the close of business, whichever is later, on the Friday before Election Day and begins again on Election Day. No registration can take place on the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before the election.
- Municipal clerks must make themselves available at least until 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election.
- The G.A.B. has revised the registration form to require voters to provide their former registration address and to specify the penalty for falsifying a registration form.
- Election officials and municipal clerks are no longer required to collect out of state driver license numbers on the GAB-131.

Absentee Changes

- ***In-person*** absentee voting begins the third Monday before the election.
 - Even if ballots are in the clerk's office, electors ***cannot*** vote in the clerk's office until the third Monday before the election.
- In-person absentee voting ends at 5 p.m. or the close of business, whichever is later, the Friday before the election. Municipal clerks must make themselves available at least until 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election.
 - No in-person absentee voting can take place on the Saturday, Sunday or Monday before the election.
- During in-person absentee voting, municipal clerks must ask voters to provide a photo ID. However, electors are not required to provide photo ID in order to vote. Electors must be given an informational document about photo ID if they are unable to show an ID at elections held before the 2012 February Primary.
- Mail-in absentee electors **should not** be asked to show or provide a photo ID for any elections before the 2012 February Primary. However, if a mail-in absentee elector voluntarily provides a copy of photo ID (not required until spring 2012) with their absentee application, municipal clerks will need to maintain a record documenting photo ID was provided.
- Photo ID will be required for mail-in absentee voting, with some exceptions, for elections starting with the 2012 February Primary. The G.A.B. will provide more information on absentee voting and photo ID later.
- Clerks must send absentee ballots electronically if requested by the voter; this is no longer optional. **This provision may change depending upon the outcome of pending legislation.**